

The Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc. proudly presents its 27th Shell Show.

Our Shell Show this year will be July 18, 2026, through July 19 at the Holly Center, Florida State University, 4750 Collegiate Dr., Panama City, FL 32405.

The show will be open to the public: Saturday July 18, 9-5, Sunday July 19 10-5 CST.

Exhibits will be received on Friday, July 17, 9am-3:30pm. Judging will begin at 3:30 on Friday. Club members will be on hand to assist exhibitors during set-up hours.

Scientific judges are and Richard Batt.

Artistic judges are Carol Mitchell and Robin Batt.

An awards banquet will be held on Saturday July 18 at 5:30pm. Judges, exhibitors, club members, dealers, families & guests are invited to attend.

We look forward to having you join us.

Members of the Gulf Coast Shell Club:

Chairpersons- Scott & Kathy Dilbeck, srdilbeck08@gmail.com, 850-625-8314 or

850-625-9151 Co-Chairs Brian & Angela Cummings

Artistic Chair-Marie [Gayeski](mailto:marie.gayeski@gmail.com), marie.gayeski@gmail.com, 706-614-9424 & assistant Sharon Woods, slwoods0104@gmail.com

Scientific Chair-Kathy Dilbeck, srdilbeck08@gmail.com

SCIENTIFIC CATEGORIES

A. Novice: any source. Open to exhibitors who have never exhibited in an open show.

B. NORTHWEST FLORIDA: Any source. Northwest Florida is defined as that area west of a line due south of St. Teresa, FL to a line extending due south of the western Florida state line.

C. ONE LARGE FAMILY: Any source. An exhibit should consist of specimens from one of the following families: Conidae, Muricidae, Volutidae, or Cypraeidae.

D. SUBFAMILY: An examination of a subfamily of one of large families listed in Category C

E. ONE SMALL FAMILY: Any source. An exhibit consisting of specimens found in any single family not listed in category C.

F. FLORIDA-CARIBBEAN: Any source. The specimen must be from the Caribbean Province and those portions of the Carolinian Province adjacent to Florida.

G. WORLDWIDE MULTI-FAMILY: Any source. Exhibit of worldwide marine specimens from several families.

H. ONE-GENUS: Any source. An exhibit which includes shells from only one genus and may include its subgenera.

I. SELF-COLLECTED: An exhibit of self-collected marine mollusks.

J. SPECIALIZED: Any source. Exhibits may contain unusual specimens, freaks, albinos, dwarfs, or giants of particular species. The exhibit may contain any number of species.

K. SINGLE SPECIMEN: Any source. Exhibit of one outstanding specimen.

L. SINGLE SPECIMEN: Self-collected. Exhibit of one outstanding self-collected specimen.

M. MEMBER COLLECTED SHELL OF THE SHOW: A single specimen self-collected by a member of the Gulf Coast Shell Club. Exhibits may be marine, land or freshwater.

N. EDUCATIONAL: Any source. The prime objective of this exhibit must be to teach about shells, shell collecting, or the history thereof.

O. MINIATURE: any source. Limited to shells measuring one inch or less when adult.

P. STUDENT: Any source. Open to collectors under eighteen years of age.

Q. NON-MARINE MOLLUSKS: Any source. May be freshwater, land or tree specimens. See rules for exhibitors for self-collected provisions.

R. SEA LIFE: Marine plants and/or animals. (Examples: corals, echinoderms, sea beans, etc.)

S. FOSSIL- Any source. An exhibit of fossil marine mollusks. See rules for exhibitors for self-collected provisions.

T. CREATIVE- An exhibit of 1 case (24 in x 24 in or greater) that tells a complete story within the case. You may use a backboard.

U. PROFESSIONAL: Open to professional dealers only and eligible for 1st, 2nd,3rd ribbons only. See rules for exhibitors for professional definition.

V. BEACH SHELLS: Self-collected shells obtained by the exhibitor on the beach, from wading or from beach restoration products.

ARTISTIC CATEGORIES

All entries must be the work of the exhibitor. With the exception of Category 13, art and craft items may have materials used in construction that are shells, shell particles, and/or other seashore materials such as sea urchins, sea beans, starfish, etc. The theme of each entry must be shell/sea life. An exhibitor is limited to 3 entries per category.

1. SHELLCRAFT: Novelties such as animals, people etc. that are made from shells/ sea life.
2. SHELL NEEDLE WORK: Original design. This may be cross-stitch, applique or quilts
3. SHELL NEEDLEWORK: from kit.
4. QUILTS:
5. SHELL PHOTOGRAPHY: Any that pertain to shells and/or sea life. Subjects may be natural or still life. Photo must be matted and may be framed.
6. WREATHS AND WALL HANGINGS: (not Christmas)
7. SHELL MIRRORS: All sizes. All entries must have appropriate hangers. If entry is over 4 lbs., the method of display is at the discretion of the committee.
8. SHELL DECORATED OBJECTS: May be decorated boxes, baskets, etc. Item does not have to be completely covered by shells.
9. CHRISTMAS RELATED ITEMS: Wreaths, centerpieces, ornaments, etc. whose primary structure is shells and/or sea life.
10. FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS: Arrangements made primarily of shells.
11. JEWELRY AND PERSONAL ACCESSORIES: Earrings, bracelets, necklaces, belts, etc. made from shells, sea life or facsimiles thereof. For security these items must be in a covered case. See rules for case requirements.
12. SAILOR'S VALENTINE: Must be made and designed by the exhibitor. Frame may be purchased.
13. SHELL PAINTINGS: Original paintings/drawings in oil, acrylic or watercolor.

14. CREATED SHELLS: Shells and/or sea life made from materials that are NOT shells. (Example: shells made from paper or wood)
15. STUDENT SHELLCRAFT: See category 1 above. This must be made by a student using shells and/or sea life or decorated with shells and/or sea life. There are 2 divisions of this category, each eligible for place ribbons. A. Student aged 5-10 years. B. Student aged 11-17. Please note on entry whether A or B.
16. DRAWING: all entries must be made with use of graphite, charcoal, black India Ink, color lead pencils, crayons or markers. All entries must be the original design of shells and/or sea life created by the exhibitor. Entries must be matted and/or framed.
17. PROFESSIONAL: Open to professional shell artists and eligible for 1st, 2nd, 3rd ribbons only. See rules for Exhibitors for professional definition.

RULES FOR EXHIBITORS

1. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to read all rules and specifications pertaining to dimensions and containers. This is for space allocations and safety. Scientific entry space is limited to 350 linear feet. Entry Forms must be received by June 20, 2026. Entries received after this date will be accepted on a space-available basis only. All entries must comply with the Rules for Exhibitors, no exceptions. Entries are open to interested people except current professional dealers (see categories U & 16). Summit Entry forms promptly. All times are CST.
2. No exhibits will be accepted during the show. Exhibits will be accepted on Friday July 17, 2026, 9am-3:30 pm and must remain in place until the close of the show on Sunday, July 19th at 5 pm CST. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor or his or her proxy to set up and disassemble each exhibit. Layout information will be available at the entrance during set up times. Layout diagrams may be electronically sent to exhibitors prior to the show if possible. Judging will begin at 3:30 pm CST. Reception for exhibitors and dealers 5-7.
3. All contents of the exhibits must be the sole property of the exhibitors.
4. SELF-COLLECTED: each shell must have been personally collected by the exhibitor. If exhibit is totally self-collected, the exhibitor may incorporate "self-collected" in the title of the exhibit. If the exhibitor wishes a specimen or specimens that are part of a larger display to have a self-collected designation, he/she must denote the specimen as such by the placement of a colored dot or star on the label.

5. The Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc. reserves the right to refuse any exhibit which does not meet the standards of the show.
6. The name of the exhibitor may not be shown on any entry until after judging. At that time the show clerks will place the exhibitor's name by their displays. If artistic entries are signed or initialed, please cover the name or initials with tape or other suitable materials.
7. Exhibitors may enter as many categories as they desire or are eligible to enter but in the Artistic division each may have no more than 3 entries per category. No single entry may be entered into more than one category.
8. Entries must be placed in some sort of sturdy container, cabinet, or drawer and covered by either glass or clear plexiglass. Artistic exhibits are excluded from this rule except for Category 10.
9. If vertical backboards are used in an exhibit, they shall not exceed 32" in height from the top of the supporting table and the reverse side shall be painted or covered in such a way that it does not detract from the display on the other side of the table.
10. There is no maximum length of exhibits, however, because of the configuration at the site, exhibits may turn a corner. It is advisable that exhibits be constructed so that they may be set up for viewing from either direction.
11. Each specimen exhibited in a scientific category must be clearly and neatly labeled with the proper scientific name (genus & species), author, date and location in so far as possible. Common names are encouraged.

Labeling via chart is allowed for aesthetic purposes. A label for scientific exhibits should include: the scientific name should be in italics or the regular type that is underlined.

Scientific
and date

Common name-----

Charonia variegata (Lamarck, 1816)
 Atlantic Triton Trumpet
 Found by octopus' hole at 10 feet in
 St. Andrews Sound

Name-----author

-----where

found

12. Exhibitors may not be present during judging. Assigned clerks will accompany judges. All judges' decisions will be final.
13. If a display has previously won the Conchologists of America Award, or an entrant has previously won the Helen Norton Award, this must be noted on the entry form.
14. All packing materials must be removed from the show site during public viewing hours. No storage of materials under the display tables will be allowed.
15. A definition or description of a "region" must be defined and incorporated somewhere in the display if credit for such a display for such a display is desired.
16. Artistic Division pegboard space is limited. Please specify if you want hanging space. If you want your entry on an easel, you must provide the easel. Easels and electrical outlets will not be provided.
17. All possible precautions will be taken to safeguard exhibits. However, neither the Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc or the Florida State University will be responsible for any loss or damage. All cases should be glass or plexiglass covered for safety. It is also recommended they be locked in some manner.
18. Professional in both divisions is defined as someone who has sold shells or shell creations to the public in an ongoing process for the purpose of personal profit.
19. If you feel that any rule needs to be exempted because of special circumstances involving the character of your exhibit, please consult a show chairman when entering. All possible efforts will be made to accommodate your exhibit. We will work with you should the need arise. We want your exhibit and our show to be a success.
20. If needed, display cases are available for borrowing. Call Scott 850-625-8314

Thank you for being part of the Gulf Coast Shell Club's 27th Shell Show!

AWARDS -2026 the purpose of awards is to stimulate the entry of exhibits, to interest the public in our hobby, to stimulate a desire to learn about mollusks, and to reward the exhibitors for their work. The exhibits should not only inform but interest observers in the scientific study of mollusks and in the creation of crafts and the artistic handling of seashells.

The judges consider neatness, activeness and originality of the exhibit, choice & quality of specimens and materials, accuracy of data and apparent amount of effort put into an exhibit as well as its educational and scientific and esthetic value. It is not mandatory that all awards be given if, in the judge's opinion, no exhibit merits any of the following awards, they will not be presented.

SCIENTIFIC DIVISION

The Conchologists of America Grand Trophy: This trophy will be presented to the exhibit of mollusks which the judges feel shows overall excellence and best interest in conchology. It is awarded by the Conchologists of America. This trophy will not be awarded to an exhibit that has won this award previously.

The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia Award is an award that makes an exhibit eligible for "Best of the Best" type awards including The Masters Award at Astronaut Trail and NC Shell Shows, Best of the Best Award at Broward, Mote Gold Award at Sarasota, Florida Museum of Natural History Platinum Award at St. Petersburg, The Sanibel Platinum Award, and the Wayne Humbird Memorial Award at the Sea Shell Searchers Shell Show".

The Vokes Trophy: Awarded to the best display, in the opinion of the judges, presenting a fairly balanced presentation of various families of gastropods and bivalves. Other classes may be included but should play a minor role, The display may be worldwide, regional or from a local area and may include recent shells, or a combination of both.

This trophy honors the work of Drs. Emily and Harold Vokes. To qualify, an exhibit must contain at least 10 percent bivalves (Example: if your exhibit has 100 shells at least 10 must be bivalves). If your exhibit qualifies, please check the "yes" box on the Scientific Entry form. Eligible categories are A, B, G, I, J, N, O, P, S, T, and V.

Helen Norton Award: Presented to the best display, in the opinion of the judges, of self-collected marine mollusks. This award may not be presented to exhibitors who have won it previously.

Most Educational: awarded to the best educational exhibit in the show. An exhibit does not have to be entered into the Educational Category to be eligible, but the prime objective must be to teach about shells or the history of shelling.

Exhibitors Award: Presented to the most outstanding exhibit in the show in the opinion of the exhibitors.

Frozen Dip- Net Award: Presented to the best exhibit of Northwest Florida Shells.

Shell of the Show: Awarded to the single most outstanding specimen in the show in categories A through P and S, T, and V.

Self-Collected Shell of the Show: Awarded to the most outstanding self-collected shell categories A through P and S, T and V.

Member Collected Shell of the Show: Awarded the best self-collected shell collected by a member of The Gulf Coast Shell Club. Specimens in categories A-Q and S, T, and V are eligible. Specimens must be labeled as self-collected.

Student Award: Awarded to the most outstanding exhibit by an exhibitor under the age of eighteen.

Founders Award: Awarded to the most beautiful exhibit of mollusks.

ARTISTIC DIVISION

Artistic Excellence Award: Presented to the best overall entry, in the opinion of the judges in this division.

Originality Award: Presented to the best original exhibit. Originality will be judged on subject, materials, and composition.

Student Award: Best exhibit by a student age 17 and younger.

Rosettes

Judges' Special Awards: The green rosettes will be awarded to the judges' choice of exhibits deserving special recognition beyond place ribbons. Two will be available per division.

Place: first, second and 3rd place ribbons in each category will be available for the judges use.

Honorable Mention ribbons are available if the judges choose.

SCIENTIFIC ENTRY FORM

Name (As you want it to appear on your exhibit) _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Please fill out the following as best you can _____

	Category Number	Category Name	Total length in Feet	Exhibit Title
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

Are you eligible for the CONCHOLOGIST OF AMERICA AWARD ?(circle exhibit number(s)-1 2 3 4 5 6)

Are you eligible for the HELEN NORTON AWARD ? (Circle Exhibit Number(s) – 1 2 3 4 5 6)

Are you eligible for the VOLKES AWARD ? (Circle Exhibit Number(s) – 1 2 3 4 5 6)

I have read and understand the Shell Show Rules and agree to abide by them.

Signature of Exhibitor _____ DATE _____

Patron donation: \$ _____

ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 20TH 2026

Send Scientific Entries to: srdilbeck08@gmail.com Ph. 850-625-9151
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GULF COAST SHELL SHOW ARTISTIC ENTRY FORM

NAME (as it will appear after judging): _____

Please print clearly.

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

SHELL CLUB AFFILIATION: _____ EMAIL _____

CATEGORY NUMBER _____

TABLETOP _____

WALL HUNG _____

OVERALL EXHIBIT SIZE

HEIGHT _____ (A)

DEPTH _____ (B)

WIDTH _____ (C)

DESCRIPTION OF EXHIBIT _____

GULF COAST SHELL CLUB, INC., EXHIBITOR'S WAIVER

I, _____, hereinafter known as the "Exhibitor", in consideration of being permitted to take part in this exhibition beginning Friday, July 17, through July 19, 2026 at the _____, Panama City, FL, do hereby agree to indemnify the Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc. FSU and further hold them harmless from and against claims, actions, damages and liability in connection with loss of life, personal injury and or damage or loss of property arising out of the use of such premises or any part thereof by the Exhibitor, whether caused by negligence or otherwise of the Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc., its agents, contractors or employees, or by the employees, agents or contractors of the Lyndell Conference Center.

I have read the Gulf Coast Shell Club, Inc. Exhibitor's waiver and the Shell Show Rules and agree to abide by both of them. _____ Date: _____

Signature (by parent if Exhibitor is a student)

If student entry, please denote A or B beside category number depending on age.

If the exhibit is the work of a professional artist, please see category 16 and check here _____.

If entry not confirmed within 7 days contact: Marie Gayeski 706-614-9424 to make sure entry was received.

ENTRY DEADLINE – June 20, 2026 Send to Marie Gayeski marie.gayeski@gmail.com